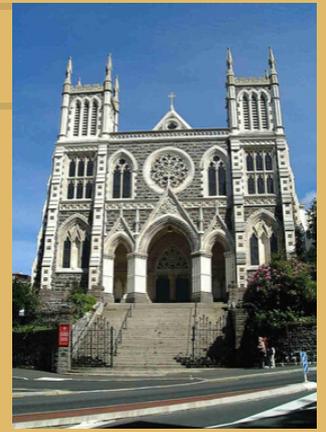


| JULY. 2020 |



Catholic Diocese of Dunedin

Welcome back Bishop Michael

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am happy to inform you that as from 8th July 2020 I am back in Dunedin Diocese and taking up again my duties as bishop. I wish to thank Fr Gerard Aynsley in his role of Vicar General for representing me during this time. I am very grateful for the prayers and messages of support that I received from many of you during my time away.

It was on the 3rd May of this year that I wrote a letter indicating that I was taking time from my duties as bishop for personal and spiritual renewal. This was not an easy decision for me to make but looking back it was the right one for my ongoing health. This experience has reminded me that when I am in difficulty then I need to reach out for help from others and most of all for help from God. This is a message that I believe is important for us all to be aware of, especially in the difficult times we live in. I look forward to travelling around the Diocese to visit the parishes and schools and to catch up with as many of you as I can. This year of 2020 has been a challenging year for us all but with the support of each other and with God's grace we move forward with hope. Once again thank you for your prayers and support.

Yours in Christ

+Michael Dooley
Bishop of Dunedin

Diocesan Finance Committee

Tracey Murray was welcomed as a new member to the Diocesan Finance Committee at our June meeting. Tracey is a Chartered Accountant from Balclutha and a member of the St Mary MacKillop Parish. She comes to the the Committee with a good understanding of parish finances and parish life as well as bringing her accounting expertise. We look forward to Tracey's input and guidance.



Our Diocese, Our Church Family

Father Gerard Aynsley

I have been privileged over the years of my priestly ministry to be a part of a number of parishes and also to have spent some time with nearly every parish community in the diocese. It is inspiring to witness the lived faith of so many people in such a variety of contexts. At the same time, I also hear parishioners speak of 'the diocese' and what it is doing or not doing for 'the people'. I hear that 'the diocese' has taken a parish's money (not true, but a common perception), that 'the diocese' should do more for youth, that 'the diocese' should speak out more on a particular issue, etc. The same could be said for how we often speak of 'the Church'. We can fall into the trap of seeing the Church or our diocese as an organisation that we happen to belong to, as if we were simply members. Also, despite Vatican II's insistence that the Church is the people of God, we can struggle to let go of a top-down view of the Church. Oftentimes, the discussions that reveal these ways of thinking can be quite subtle. I think, for example, of how we often speak of, 'the relationship between parish and school' or ask 'what the Church should do for young people, for people who are gay, for families, Māori etc.' The problem with this way of speaking is that those being spoken of – Māori, families, gay Catholics, young people – are the Church, just as our school children and their parents are the parish, even if they are not present for Mass on a Sunday. As a way of countering a top-down approach, or a way of thinking about Church as if it were an organisation, it is important to affirm that the life of faith is lived at the ground level. As such, the best way to understand 'the Church' or 'the diocese' is to seek to understand what is happening at the ground level, i.e. in our parishes.



Our parishes exist to live and proclaim the mission of Jesus Christ and his vision for the Reign of God, while seeking to model in our lives the self-giving love of the Trinity. This vision is expressed in four aspects of parish life and we need to be regularly evaluating ourselves to discern how well we live the mission of Jesus which is the Church.

- 1. We seek to love and worship the God revealed to us through Jesus Christ.** We do this in our formal celebrations and informally in the nurturing of a personal faith and in the spirituality of daily life. As such, our parishes include those who gather for worship and those that do not. The bishop's roll is to support parishes by ensuring there are priests and lay leaders properly formed to serve parish communities.
- 2. We strive to build up loving and supportive communities.** We will seek to welcome and include all people. We will care for one another; visiting the sick, reaching out to the grieving, forming friendships, etc. No one from 'head office' is needed to make this happen!
- 3. We will be communities of outreach and service.** Most of this happens informally. Formed by the gospel of Jesus, parishioners in their everyday lives reach out in a spirit of service and love and compassion. Then there are the planned responses to particular needs, where parishioners participate in organized groups to serve the community: foodbanks, St Vincent de Paul, Refugee and Migrant support groups, etc.

Because outreach is so central to our mission, we also support our diocesan agency, Catholic Social Services and we take up collections for our national agency, Caritas to provide professional outreach and service. These agencies complement, and are extensions of, our own outreach and service.

4. As children and adults, we seek to grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and his mission. Many of our parishes have schools and we have four Colleges. Our parishes also provide opportunities for adult education. The bishop, as proprietor, and with the assistance of the diocesan education and property offices, provides support to all our schools and colleges. With the support of diocesan staff, the Priests Council and the DPC the bishop will ensure adult education and formation is supported.

We need to be alert to the risk of running the diocese like a corporation with a head office and, instead, to trust that God is at work in people's lives. At the same time, we recognise that we do not live our lives of faith in isolation. Each one of us is bound together with other baptised Catholics to form a parish community, our parishes are bound together through the ministry of the bishop and, finally, our diocese exists in relationship with the Universal Church. Here in the provinces of Otago and Southland, with Christ at the centre and the bishop as our shepherd, we are entrusted with the mission of Jesus and his vision for the Reign of God.

CATHOLIC CARING FOUNDATION APPEAL

9 August 2020

The Catholic Caring Foundation has gradually grown into a healthy fund which helps financially support many of the pastoral works of our diocese. On Sunday, August 9 there will be a special collection and a special appeal. A separate brochure will accompany the August Diocesan Newsletter which will come from the Education and Property Offices.

Tindall Foundation Grants Open

Is there a project that your parish or school or youth group could engage in to support youth and young people, Māori, Migrants and Refugees or some other area of social outreach? In partnership with the Tindall Foundation, the Diocese of Dunedin invites applications for grants that will support families and social services within the Diocese. In 2019 The Tindall Foundation grants, along with grants from the Catholic Caring Foundation, assisted the following projects: Oamaru Combined Churches Christmas Parcels Trust; Bushy Schools; Edmund Rice Camps; Catholic Social Services; Young Vinnies and the St Francis of Assisi Trust. They involved projects supporting rural children and children and youth facing particular challenges, families, budgeting support, migrant communities and community outreach.



We encourage your Parish Pastoral Council, School Board of Trustees and other groups to consider potential projects. Grants are available up to a maximum of \$7,000. Applications close on 1 August 2020. Click here for the application form <https://www.cdd.org.nz/grants>.

Liturgy and Lockdown

*A reflection from our diocesan Liturgy Director,
Fr Tony Harrison.*

Once our restriction levels through Covid-19 had dropped I visited the rest homes in the parish. It was quite emotional for all of us. At level 4 some residents had not been out of their rooms. To see a familiar face from outside again was so welcome for these people.

Their reaction that they were able to receive the Eucharist again was hard to describe. I am sure that has been the feeling of most of our parishioners during and after Lockdown.

The time has taught us lessons about our faith and the practice of our faith. But it was the hunger many of us desired to be with each other in our liturgical celebrations. Our Easter, the highlight of the Christian Calendar, was nothing like we have experienced before. Some parishes were able to stream the celebration and those participating live were able to see who were joining by way of names on the screen but it was the visible, tangible presence that was lacking.

We know how to use Zoom, YouTube, Facebook which has been a good learning curve. But the question is how can we use that emptiness we felt so as to enrich our celebration of the Eucharist. One of the important ministries is that of hospitality and that is not just providing a cup of tea but welcoming one another. The Ministry of Hospitality belongs to all of us Parishioners emerged from their bubbles – some quite diffidently – and they have taken the seat in the church that was “theirs” before Lockdown. Let us not be strangers to each other. We are sisters and brothers in Christ – “Lord it is wonderful for us to be here.”



New appointment of Safeguarding Advisors in Diocese



Maria and Mike Noonan from Mercy Parish – Whānau Aroha in Dunedin South, have been appointed as Safeguarding Advisors for the diocese. Maria, originally from Queenstown and Mike from Portsmouth UK, lived in Dunedin while their family grew up. They returned from a L'Arche community in Edinburgh in March. Together they have a lifetime experience living and working with children, young people and vulnerable adults in both NZ and the UK. Working in L'Arche communities, Catholic Social Services, Relationship Services and the Otago Youth Wellness Trust, enabled them to recognise the importance of accountability and good supervision to ensure the helpfulness and safety of their relationships. Mike was also on the 'Confidential Listening and Advice Panel' which listened to the stories of over a thousand New Zealanders who experienced abuse in state care. Maria was involved in the development of a tertiary level course for safeguarding which is in its trial period. They are looking forward to working alongside the Catholic communities in the diocese to create and maintain a church where all may safely belong.

Nau mai, Kahurangi our new administration assistant

Ko Hikurangi te maunga
Ko Waiapu te awa
Ko Horouta te waka
Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi

Ko Whanokao te maunga
Ko Mōtu te awa
Ko Whakaari te moutere
Ko Mataatua te waka
Ko Apanui te tangata
Ko Whitianga te marae
Ko Te Whānau-ā-Apanui te iwi

Kiaora, I am the new Administrative Assistant for this beautiful Catholic Diocese. I have the amazing opportunity to work in this establishment and to learn all that it offers from our wonderful staff.

I was born and raised in the North Island in the glamorous East Coast. I moved to Dunedin fresh out of high school to study, I took a break last year and I am currently still on that break. Since then I have worked heavily in the hospitality industry and look forward to this change of position. I live in North East Valley with three flatmates and my gorgeous 14 year old sister. I enjoy sports and right now I play rugby for Alhambra-Union (wish us luck for this cold season). Here is to making smaller steps for the betterment of all.

"He aha te mea nui o te ao, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata."



Kahurangi Delamere –
Administrative Assistant

Catholic Social Services – Strategic Planning Days

Catholic Social Services have been an important part of our diocese for over 50 years. As our church's social services agency it has always had a special focus on working with families and parents to assist them in living life well. We are well respected for the parenting classes that have been run for many years and for the support provided to young parents. In recent times we have become very involved with providing a safe and supportive environment for children to enjoy time with their parents when they are not able to live together.



As well as this we are involved in the local community offering social work support and we provide counselling services in Dunedin and Central Otago. We take an integrated approach to our social services meaning that we can often support individuals and families to develop capacity in other areas of their life. We recently welcomed Lisa Oseki and Angela Vaeau to our Board. The Board has been working with our director, Mike Tonks to update the strategic plan and to ensure it aligns with the diocese's vision for the agency.

"Koia ano te aroha o te Atua ki te ao, homai ana e ia tana Tama kotahi, kia kore ai ia e ngaro te tangata e whakapono ana ki a ia, engari kia whiwhi ai ki te ora tonu."

John 3:16